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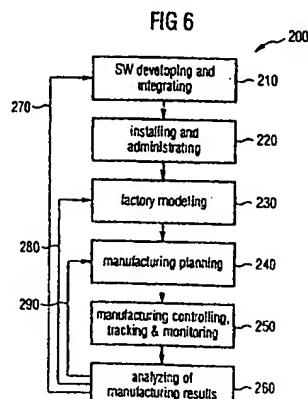
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(54) Computer integrated manufacturing techniques

(57) The present invention provides a novel distributed factory system framework including a novel factory automation lifecycle (200) having lifecycle activities for SW developing and integrating (210), installing and administrating (220), factory modeling (230), manufacturing planning (240), manufacturing controlling, monitoring and tracking (250) and analyzing of manufacturing results (260). The factory lifecycle comprises framework components. The distributed factory system framework also includes application components and SW building blocks. The framework components are adapted for managing the application components, while the application components are utilized to provide instructions for managing a process such as a wafer fab. The building blocks are adapted for forming or modifying framework and application components. The distributed factory system framework provides computer implemented

methods for integrating processing systems and facilitates process and equipment changes.

FIG 6





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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X	US 5 495 417 A (MIURA KAZUYKI ET AL) 27 February 1996 (1996-02-27) * column 13, line 41 - column 15, line 35 * * column 39, line 60 - column 47, line 67; figures 1-7,89-96 *	1,13,17, 19-24	G05B19/418 G05B17/02		
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G05B					
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims					
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner			
MUNICH	27 September 2001	Helot, H			
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X : particularly relevant if taken alone	I : theory or principle underlying the invention				
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